

The Village Green

Newsletter of the Village of Pomona

June 2002

Village Board deals with minor issues in the Village

When the Mayor and Board were not busy renaming village streets, they were busy dealing with the typical issues facing village life.

Dogs (and some cats) have been causing problems (usually speedily taken care of by Claude van Kleeck, our Animal Control Officer).

Violations of the village sign law, which was passed last year to limit the proliferation of signs placed dangerously in the right of way, have caused more than one visit to the courts by Village Attorney, Reuben Ortenberg.

Our recreation committee is disappointed that they may have to cancel the ever-popular "Fish-In" at Secor Park because of low water in the pond caused by the drought. The village shut off the pump at the pond back in October last year, when the county went into a stage 1 water emergency. However, our fingers are crossed that the recent rainfall continues and the event can take place in late June. Watch out for news on this and other events on the village website at:

www.pomonavillage.com

Finally, the Mayor and Board would like to wish you all a safe and pleasant summer.

Message from Mayor Herbert Marshall ...

It's Official. The new address for Village Hall is 100 LADENTOWN ROAD. Honoring the rich and colorful heritage of our community, Supervisor St. Lawrence and the Ramapo Town Board has joined our own Village Board in renaming the entire length of Old Route 202B, Ladentown Road.

Beginning as part of Haverstraw Rd, then Suffern Lane, and most recently, the innocuous Old Route 202B, our newest old road finally bears the proud

and rightful name of its roots. Running from the intersection of Routes 306 and 202, it winds past the Ladentown Methodist Church and the site of Pincus Margulies' general store, then past WindyFields which was around when our nation was born and Village Hall which wasn't. It finally passes the old Burgess Meredith estate and horse barn until it once again meets Route 202. Our sentimental "Main Street," will now be forever known as Ladentown Road.



Mayor Marshall (left) and Ramapo Supervisor, Chris St. Lawrence at historic Ladentown Church on what is now Ladentown Road

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">June 2002</h1>						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center	8
		Garbage - All Village	Recycling - paper 		Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	
9 2.00 pm Village Hall Clean-up Squad	10 7.30 Village Hall Village Board Workshop Meeting 	11	12	13 7.30 pm Village Hall Planning Board Regular Meeting 	14 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center	15 Cultural Center Summer 2002 Exhibit Grand Opening 6.00pm - 9.00pm
		Garbage - All Village	Recycling - commingled 		Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	
16	17	18	19	20	21 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center	22
		Garbage - All Village	Recycling - paper 		Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	
23	24 7.30pm Village Hall Village Board Regular Meeting 	25	26 8.00 pm Village Hall ZBA meeting (scheduled) 	27	28 9.30am Yoga class at the Cultural Center	29
		Garbage - All Village	Recycling - commingled 		Bulk trash/Garbage All Village	
30						

Cultural Center Agenda

NEW EXHIBITION GRAND OPENING Saturday June 15th at the Cultural Center 6.00pm

Summer 2002 - Painting & Sculpture

Featuring artists **Irene Christensen, Penny Dell, Bill Hochhausen & James Tyler**

Music in the Gallery will be provided by Jeremy Wall

Come and meet the artists and join us for light refreshments

Cultural Center hours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

The Village of Pomona recently renamed Old Rt 202 B, which runs through the village, **Ladentown Road**, in commemoration of the historic Ladentown area. The Ladentown name is all but forgotten, but this renaming will ensure that it remains prominent in Village history. The following article recently appeared in The Journal News, and we hope will be of interest to our residents.

A seed planted in history

Ladentown began as a tavern, continues to influence area

by Julienne Marshall (Special to The Journal News)

The lusty history of Ladentown, now thought of as a sleepy crossroads, really began when Michael Laden, a nail cutter at the Ramapo Nail Works in Suffern, opened a store and tavern in 1816 near the junction of Route 306 and old Route 202.

Although the boundaries of Ladentown are difficult to define precisely, Pomona village Mayor Herbert Marshall said, the area begins at that intersection and runs north along the base of Cheesecote Mountain, to old Revolutionary War campgrounds on Camp Hill Road.

According to David Cole's "History of Rockland County, New York," Laden's tavern was seven miles equidistant between Haverstraw and Suffern, and the stopping point for workmen carting goods and materials between the Ramapo River's iron foundries and the port at Haverstraw. There were about 12 houses and three stores.

Dances were held at the tavern, often attended by mountain people who came down into the hamlet. Fights regularly broke out, and Ladentown soon had a rough-and-tumble reputation, according to "How Things Began...in Rockland County and Places Nearby," by Wilfred Blanch Talman.

The unruliness of the place began to change in the mid-19th century. Michael Laden bartered with the mountaineers, exchanging groceries and dry goods for their wooden baskets, called "bockies," as well as mixing spoons and ladles. Laden left the tavern in 1836. His basket and bowl business had become so successful, he moved to New York City to devote his time to it. Laden's property was bought by John J. Secor, who left it to Mrs. Charles Hedges (Agnes Johnson), his wife's niece.

The Civil War was a humanizing influence. Volunteers from the mountains

came back home with "new ideas and broader views of their mission in life," wrote historian Frank Bretagne Green in "The History of Rockland County."

Numerous echoes of Ladentown's history still exist. At the intersection of Mountain Road and Old Route 202 stands Charles Hedges' house, built sometime after 1850, and lived in currently by Ira (Bud) Hedges, Charles' grandson, and his wife, Betty. On their property is the foundation of an old store that had housed the post office. Charles Hedges had been the first postmaster in Pomona. Across the street is the Ladentown United Methodist Church, built in 1863, and there was also a Quaker Church on Quaker Road.

There are buildings that used to house Pincus Margulies' general store and gas station. Margulies had come to love the area when he attended Camp Williams, run by the Irvington Street Boys Association of the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the late 1930's and 40's. John Conklin, now residing in Haverstraw, used to live in Ladentown, and remembers that "the place was like an old-time tavern, only they sold food, no drinks. There was an old wood stove, candy and soda pops."

"We had everything up there," Conklin said, "and the actor Burgess Meredith did his shopping there. He lived up the road."

Other luminaries in the area, Marshall said, were Meredith's wife, Paulette Goddard, Tallulah Bankhead, and Patrick Dennis who had a farm in Pomona and wrote "Auntie Mame." Frank Sinatra and Lauren Bacall were always up around here," Marshall said.

Betty Hedges, president of the Rockland County Conservation Association, knows as much as anyone about Ladentown, and tells the story of Ramsey Conklin, a

mountaineer (not related to John, whose family is not from here originally), who stayed on Hedges' land after his home was flooded out by development of Palisades Park. He wandered into the mountains one day, and was found dead by a hiker. His only surviving son was allowed by then Gov. Nelson Rockefeller to live out his days on the land. That son, Theodore, now deceased, planted a pine tree on the Hedges property that towers over the house.

There are newer buildings in Ladentown, like the Sri Ranganatha Hindu Temple, and large modern homes, but history is everywhere.

A tunnel, under the road between two houses on Camp Hill Road, is believed to be part of the Underground Railroad.

Camp Hill Road itself, Marshall said, was a campground during the Revolutionary War.

There are pre-Revolutionary homes, like Windyfields on Old Route 202, and the oldest building in Ladentown, now part of a larger home, dates from 1750. Ladentown is still mentioned in some maps, and Route 306 is called the Monsey-Ladentown Road.

There's a stretch of road about one mile long that was called Old Route 202B, and has been renamed Ladentown Road. The new street signs have been ordered, the mayor said.

"Route numbers take away from the history of the area. That's one reason we wanted to change the name. We're planting the seed for future generations that this existed," said Marshall.

Musings about the Ladentown area from local residents

"When I was about 10 - 12 years old (1962 - 1964) and lived on Route 202, my friend would come over, and we would take a doll carriage and wheel it all the way down "Old Route 202," past the Ladentown Methodist Church, past Call Hollow Road and all the way to the end (where Village Hall is). A few years later, I would ride my bike down the Call Hollow Road Hill—that was the best! Believe me, there is no way that I would allow my 11½ year old daughter to ride her bike down that hill now! There is slightly more traffic than there was then!" - Leslie Sanderson

"Years ago, my cousin owned the beautiful stone home just past the junction of Camp Hill Road and Call Hollow Road. He would always come to stay there in the fall because it was such a beautiful time of year with the leaves turning. We would visit him and sometimes they would send me for a loaf of bread or some other staple at Margulies General Store. I would walk all that way to get the bread and back! (The store was located on Old Route 202 in what is now a white house across from Trustee Ian Banks' home)." - Ellie Litman

"In the early 60's when I moved to Route 202 in Ladentown, I was delighted to discover that my former teacher, Hazel Margulies, who taught me arithmetic in the North Main Street School in Spring Valley (which housed grades K - 8) lived just down the road on Old Route 202! Hazel's father, Pinkus Margulies, had raised his family in that house, and Hazel lived there for many, many years after her retirement as a teacher. When Pinkus purchased the house in the 1940's, he ran a general store with two gas pumps out front. He eventually became active in Ramapo politics and was Supervisor of the Town of Ramapo for many years, leaving the running of the store to his sons Harold and Max."

- Phyllis Steinberg

Ladentown was a series of small meadows bordered by stone walls. The land had just come out of the agricultural era. Every summer, a farmer by the name of Aaron Zorn, brought his team of white horses to cut our hay with a long blade. I got to ride the hay wagon up Camp Hill Road to his barn next to where he lived in the old Lil Carr house.

- Noel Fernandez

(One of the oldest houses in Ladentown, the Lil Carr house is up Camp Hill just past where Quaker Rd and Camp Hill Rds meet, up close to the road. Ed.)

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #70153
Monsey, NY



100 Ladentown Road
Pomona NY 10970
845-354-0545

Mayor: Herbert Marshall
Deputy Mayor: Alvin Appel
Trustee: Ian Banks
Trustee: Alma Sanders Roman
Trustee: Nick Sanderson
Clerk-Treasurer: Sue Glantz

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Leslie Sanderson

Production and

Web integration: Nick Sanderson

www.pomonavillage.com